

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 6 is canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Claims 1-11 Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended and claim 6 is canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 10-323917; claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 10-323917 in view of EP 658452, EP 925903, U.S. Patent 5,942,069 to Gerresheim et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 2001/0035255 to Sergel et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,039,826 to Okada. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied art teaches, discloses or suggests a method of producing a tread for a tire which is provided with an electrically conductive layer arranged in at least one of a widthwise middle portion and side faces of a tread rubber made from low electrically conductive rubber so as to extend from a high electrically conductive rubber layer located at an inner peripheral side of the tread rubber to ground contact face of a tread, which comprises winding an uncured high electrically conductive rubber ribbon for the formation of the electrically conductive layer, as claimed in claim 1.

Instead, JP 10-323917 discloses that the tread is formed by winding a special material strip 2 consisting of an electrically conductive layer 2a and a non-conductive layer 2b. As such, the height of the tread substantially corresponds to the width of the strip. Thus, the size of the strip 2 does not correspond to the size of the ribbon as taught in the present invention.

Further, the electrically conductive layer 2a and the non-conductive layer 2b are alternatively arranged in the widthwise direction of the tread. This disclosure is different from the arrangement of the electrically conductive layer according to the present invention.

EP '452, EP '903 and U.S. '069 do not make up for the deficiencies of JP '917 discussed above. Specifically, EP '452, EP '903 and U.S. '069 disclose structures so that the electrically conductive rubber layer is arranged in the tread, in which the rubber layer is made of a single rubber material but is not formed by winding the rubber strip. The arrangement of the single rubber member in the tread must be carried out by a method of forming a notch in the tread and pouring rubber thereinto, or by a method of separating attaching the single rubber material. In these methods, however, different rubber is poured or arranged at a block state, so that the separation failure is easily caused by different types of rubber. In the case of pouring rubber, it is required to use special equipment. Further, the position of arranging the electrically conductive rubber is never located in the bottom of the groove forming the tread pattern, so that the position of the notch or the arranging position of the rubber member should be considered for every pattern.

Sergeo et al. and Okada do not make up for the deficiencies discussed above. Sergio is similar to JP '917 in the technical sense and Okada merely discloses the winding of the rubber strip for the formation of the tread.

However, according to the present invention, the above discussed problems of conventional techniques are solved by adopting the winding of the electrically conductive ribbon as disclosed in the present invention.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11 is respectfully solicited.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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